

Remarks

At page 2 "Elections/Restrictions", the Examiner states that Applicant has timely traversed the restriction requirement by stating that all species are the same, but that this is "unpersuasive in that the elected species in figure 4 and 5 show an additional element of the adapter plate 60". Again, applicant would like to make it clear that this is a distinction that is not currently claimed. Restriction requirements cannot be applied to unclaimed subject matter (MPEP 806.1).

The Examiner objected to the figures for not showing every feature of the claims. Claim 7 has been amended to replace "interconnection" with "assembly hinge". "Assembly hinge" is element 16, appearing in figures 1 and 2.

The Examiner rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as indefinite because the specification allegedly does not adequately teach means for interlocking and means for latching. Applicant respectfully directs the Examiners attention to paragraphs 20 and 22, respectively, wherein specific references to the means for interlocking and means for latching structures with respect to the exemplary embodiment are described in detail.

The Examiner rejected claim 1, 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as indefinite for being unclear. Applicant has amended these claims according to the Examiner's suggestions.

The Examiner rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as indefinite for insufficient antecedent basis. The amendments incorporating former original claim 2 into claim 1 has supplied the antecedent basis for the cited elements.

The Examiner rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as indefinite for insufficient antecedent basis. Amendments to claim 1 have been made to clarify the antecedent basis for the cited elements.

The Examiner rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as indefinite for insufficient antecedent basis. Claim 12 has been amended to depend upon claim 10, where the antecedent basis for the cited element appears.

The Examiner indicated that claim 2 would be allowable if amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim (1) from which it depends. Claim 1 has been amended to include each and

every limitation of claim 2, and claim 2 canceled. Therefore, claim 1 and each of the dependent claims thereof should now be allowable.

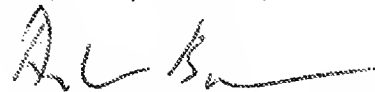
The Examiner rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by *Magnussen*. *Magnussen* is a modular component rack comprised of a plurality of blocks which slide together using T-shaped tongues and grooves. The tongues and grooves are engagable by slide action parallel to the vertical mounting surface. Claim 16 has been amended to clarify that the means for interlocking a second hanger along the vertical mounting surface is engagable in a direction normal to the vertical mounting surface.

Because *Magnussen* discloses only tongues and grooves engagable in a direction parallel to the vertical mounting surface, *Magnussen* cannot be characterized as including the claim element of the means for interlocking engagable in a direction normal to the vertical mating surface. Therefore, rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is improper.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 14 and 15.

Having obviated each of the Examiners rejections, applicant respectfully requests that a notice of allowance be issued. Should the Examiner be inclined to issue an Official Action other than the notice of allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner first contact Applicant by telephone at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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